REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 58

Twenty years ago California schools were forcing hundreds of thousands of children into mandatory Spanish-almost-only classes. Students, their parents, and employers don't want to return to those days, but the bilingual education "lobby" and teacher unions do, and so do the politicians who put Proposition 58 on the ballot.

We are two of the many Legislators who voted against it and urge you to vote NO as well.

In 1998, California voters approved an initiative requiring that children be taught English in our schools, unless their parents disagreed. They did this because children who were not native English speakers were struggling too long in "bilingual" classes and never moving up.

The results have been spectacular. Children are learning English faster than when they were forced into "bilingual programs" that dragged on for years. Because they are learning English faster and at an earlier age, record numbers of immigrant students are gaining admission to our state colleges and universities.

Those supporting Prop 58 want to change that because these so-called "language teachers" have jobs in our schools only so long as students stay in bilingual classes. The teachers and their unions benefit, but not the children.

Proposition 58 is not about modernizing the way we teach English, it's about forcing a failed method of English instruction on immigrant children against the wishes of their parents.

Proposition 58 eliminates current parental rights to an English-language education for their children.

Vote NO on this deceptive ballot measure.

SUBJECT TO COURT ORDERED CHANGES

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Assemblywoman Shannon Grove Bakersfield

Senator Joel Anderson San Diego County

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